

study of the requirements of the various species of *Nectarinia* would provide very interesting reasons for species sharing wide tracts as do *asiatica*, *zeylonica* and *lotenia*, with the former extending far beyond the other two. What factors delineate the ranges of species otherwise compatible?

To conclude, during an earlier visit to Mumbai, I had examined the sunbird specimens

in the collection of the Society, and was surprised to note that the female purplerumped sunbirds had shorter and finer bills than the males!

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15. NESTING OF *PLOCEUS PHILIPPINUS* (LINN.) AND *PLOCEUS MANYAR* (HORSFIELD) ON MANGROVE AND ASSOCIATED SPECIES IN CORINGA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ANDHRA PRADESH

At Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (c. 15° 17' N & 76° 26' E), Andhra Pradesh, we have recorded nests (both complete and incomplete 'practice nests') of the baya weaver bird *Ploceus philippinus* (Linn.) and streaked weaver bird *P. manyar* (Horsfield) on mangrove and associated species. Almost all the accessible creeks and canals crisscrossing the sanctuary were surveyed. In all, 72 nests of both types of each species were recorded, of which 19 were complete, and the rest incomplete 'practice nests'. Altogether, 5 species of nesting plants were noted, which were *Avicennia officinalis* L. — 12 complete and 3 incomplete nests of *P. philippinus*; *Clerodendron inerme* (L.) — 7 complete nests of *P. manyar*; *Dalbergia horrida* (Dennst). — 6 and 16 incomplete nests of *P. philippinus* and *P. manyar* respectively; *Acanthus ilicifolius* L. — 18 and 6 incomplete

nests of *P. philippinus* and *P. manyar* respectively; and *Myrisosatchya wightiana* (Nees ex Steud.) Hk. f. — 4 incomplete nests of *P. manyar*.

It is interesting to note that all the complete nests were observed in the creek near human habitation, while the majority of incomplete 'practice nests' were observed far away, nearer the sea front.

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16. FIRST RECORD OF *PSAMMOPHILUS BLANFORDANUS* (STOLICZKA 1871) (FAMILY: AGAMIDAE) FROM GUJARAT, INDIA

On December 8, 1998 at 1335 hrs, an olive-brown lizard was observed on a large rock along the dry bank of the Panam river (a tributary of Mahi), near Kanjeta village, Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary (RWS), Panchmahal district (20° 31'-22° 35' N, 74° 11'-74° 33' E). It was

identified with the help of diagnostic keys (Smith 1935) as Blanford's rock agama lizard (*Psammophilus blanfordanus*). In addition, two specimens of the same species have been collected from the rocky bed of the Terav river (a tributary of the Narmada), near Mal-Samot

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

villages, Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS), Bharuch district (21° 03' - 21° 59' N, 73° 05' - 74° 10' E).

This olive-brown lizard has a series of large oval-shaped spots on each side of the back, which are absent in the sub-adults. Marbled spotted markings on tail, limbs and lateral body region. Head pale brown and a black spot present on the forehead. A dark stripe is present from the nasal to the tympanum, on both sides of the head (BNHS Regn. Nos. 1441 and 1442). The measurements and other details are given in Table 1.

Psammophilus blanfordanus is distributed in the eastern part of central Gujarat, from SWS, Bharuch district towards the northeast, through the forests of Vadodara district (Nasavadi and Chhota Udepur tehsil) and up to Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary, Panchmahal district of the adjoining Madhya Pradesh.

Local tribals, call it *sardo* or *kanchido*. The species is abundant in a few river valleys of SWS and RWS. A few lizards are arboreal. During the breeding season (April to August), males perform courtship displays upon large tree trunks 2-3 m high, similar to *Calotes* garden lizards.

According to Smith (1935) and Khajuria and Agrawal (1981), *P. blanfordanus* is distributed in India, from Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh to east Bihar and Orissa, Eastern Ghats, and up to south Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The present record from the eastern part of central Gujarat is a range extension.

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TABLE I
MORPHOMETRIC DATA AND PHOLIDOSIS OF BLANFORD'S ROCK AGAMA
(*PSAMMOPHILUS BLANFORDANUS*), GUJARAT STATE.

Details	Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary	Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary	
Specimen BNHS Regn No.	1441	1442	-
Snout to vent length	4.8	7.0	5.5
Tail length	9.2	7.0 tail cut	10.7
Total body length	14.0	14.0+	16.2
Head length	1.2	1.2	1.3
Head width	1.1	1.6	1.05
A-G	2.08	3.9	2.09
ED	0.4	0.6	0.5
E-N	0.6	0.6	0.5
E-S	0.8	0.9	0.8
E-E	0.55	0.6	0.4
EL	0.30	0.35	0.30
Upper labial R/L	10/11	10/10	11/11
Lower labial R/L	10/11	10/10	10/11
Rostral covered with no. of scales	4	6	4
Snout covered scales	Keeled/unequal	Keeled/unequal	Keeled/unequal
Back scales	Keeled	Keeled	Keeled
Belly scales	Keeled	Keeled	Keeled
No. of scale rows on body	109	100	85
Hind limb digits lamellale,	11:15:18:20:13	8:15:21:24:17	10:17:20:23:17
Two separated spines on the back of the head	Present	Present	Present
Sex	Not determined	Male	Female

REFERENCES

- KHAJURIA, H. & H.P. AGRAWAL (1981): Studies on wildlife of Narbada valley - Part II. Reptilia. *Zool. Surv. India*. 78(1): 21-36.
- SMITH, M.A. (1935): Fauna of British India. Reptilia and Amphibia. Vol. II Sauria. Taylor and Francis, London. 440 pp.

17. REDISCOVERY OF TWO RARE TYPHLOPIDS, *TYPHLOPS THURSTONI* BOETTGER, 1890 AND *T. TINDALLI* SMITH, 1943 FROM KERALA

(With four text-figures)

This is a report of the rediscovery of *Typhlops thurstoni* Boettger, 1890 and *T. tindalli* Smith, 1943 from Trichur district, Kerala state, southwestern India, during a herpetological survey conducted by the author.

Typhlops thurstoni Boettger, 1890

It was known from only four specimens in the Natural History Museum, London and one with the Zoological Survey of India (Murthy 1993). Unfortunately, collection details pertaining to the latter are not available. Originally described from the Nilgiris, it was reported from Trichur (Wall 1919) and from Wynaad in Kerala (Procter 1924). The present specimen was collected on August 18, 1997, from a coconut grove with laterite soil in Chavakkad, 28 km west of Trichur.

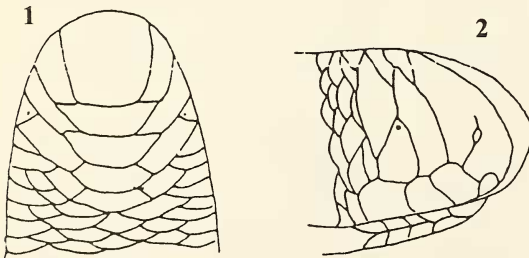
T. thurstoni is a small, active snake, light brown dorsally and pale brown ventrally, except for the snout and anal region which are whitish.

The margins of the scales are darker. The snout is rounded and strongly projecting. The rostral is $2/3^{\text{rd}}$ as broad as the head, and extends to the level of the ocular. The central portion of the rostral is studded with glands and is dark brown. The large nasal is incompletely divided by a suture starting from the second labial and ending just beyond the nostril. The anterior nasal is less than half the size of the posterior nasal. The prefrontal is half as broad as the head, in full contact with rostral, separating the posterior nasals. The frontal is as large as prefrontal, both are double the size of other body scales. Ocular and preocular shorter than nasal, the latter almost as broad as posterior nasal and in contact with prefrontal, frontal and supraocular, besides ocular and posterior nasal. Supraocular twice as broad as long. Smith (1943) stated that eyes are not 'distinguishable' in this species, but in the present specimen, they are distinguishable. The tail ends in a point. There are 20 scales around the body, the diameter of which is contained 71 times in the total length. Transverse scale rows: 481. Length: 215 mm. Diameter: 3 mm. The pholidosis is shown in Figs 1 and 2.

The present finding from Chavakkad was made 73 years after the last record by Procter (1924) from Wynaad.

Typhlops tindalli Smith 1943

T. tindalli was first reported from Nilambur in Kerala by Boulenger (1893) who identified



Figs 1 & 2: Head scalation
Typhlops thurstoni Boettger